

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1       1. A cordless telephone system, comprising:  
2       a base station adapted to function as a slave;  
3       a first handset unit adapted to function as a master;  
4       a second handset unit adapted to function as a master;  
5       said first and second handsets adapted to periodically poll said base station  
6 and receive commands responsive to which said first or second handset turns off  
7 said polling functionality when an active connection exists between said base station  
8 and said other of said first or second handsets.

1       2. A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said first or second  
2 handset units receive commands responsive to which said first or second handset  
3 units reactivate said polling functionality when said active connection is  
4 disconnected.

1       3. A system in accordance with claim 2, wherein said first or second  
2 handsets receive commands responsive to said polling indicative of a new timing  
3 relationship for a next polling.

1       4. A cordless telephone system, comprising:  
2       a base station adapted to function as a slave;  
3       a first mobile unit adapted to function as a master;  
4       a second mobile unit adapted to function as a master;  
5       said first and second mobile units adapted to alternately function as a system  
6 slave when the other of said first or second mobile units has an active connection  
7 with said base station.

1       5. A cordless telephone system in accordance with claim 4, said first and  
2 second mobile units adapted to send polling signals to said base station when  
3 functioning as masters.

1       6. A cordless telephone system in accordance with claim 5, said base  
2 station adapted to respond to said polling signals by sending signals directing said  
3 first or second mobile units to adjust their poll timing.

1       7. A cordless telephone system in accordance with claim 6, wherein said  
2 alternately functioning as slaves comprises turning off polling functionality while said  
3 active connection is ongoing.

1       8. A cordless telephone system in accordance with claim 7, wherein said  
2 base station is adapted to respond to said polling signals by sending signals  
3 directing one of said first or second mobile units to turn off said polling functionality..

1       9. A cordless telephone system in accordance with claim 8, wherein a  
2 mobile station that has turned off said polling functionality is adapted to turn said  
3 polling functionality back on responsive to commands from said other of said first or  
4 second mobile units.

1       10. A method in a telecommunications system having a base station and  
2 at least first and second mobile units, comprising:  
3            sending polling signals to said base station from said first and second mobile  
4 units; and  
5            receiving at said first or second mobile units one or more signals directing  
6 said first or second mobile units to adjust a timing of said sending polling signals.

1       11. A method in accordance with claim 10, further comprising receiving at  
2 one of said first or second mobile units a signal from said base station responsive to  
3 polling directing said mobile unit to turn off polling functionality during an active  
4 connection between said base station and the other of said first or second mobile  
5 units.

1

1       12. A method in accordance with claim 11, further comprising said one  
2 turning said polling functionality back on responsive to a signal from said other of

3 said first or second mobile units.

1       13. A method, comprising:  
2       providing a base station adapted to function as a slave;  
3       providing a first mobile unit adapted to function as a master;  
4       providing a second mobile unit adapted to function as a master;  
5       said first and second mobile units adapted to alternately function as a system  
6 slave when the other of said first or second mobile units has an active connection  
7 with said base station.

1       14. A method in accordance with claim 13, said first and second mobile  
2 units adapted to send polling signals to said base station when functioning as  
3 masters.

1       15. A method in accordance with claim 14, said base station adapted to  
2 respond to said polling signals by sending signals directing said first or second  
3 mobile units to adjust their poll timing.

1       16. A method in accordance with claim 15, wherein said alternately  
2 functioning as slaves comprises turning off polling functionality while said active  
3 connection is ongoing.

1       17. A method in accordance with claim 16, wherein said base station is  
2 adapted to respond to said polling signals by sending signals directing one of said  
3 first or second mobile units to turn off said polling functionality.

1       18. A method in accordance with claim 17, wherein a mobile station that  
2 has turned off said polling functionality is adapted to turn said polling functionality  
3 back on responsive to commands from said other of said first or second mobile  
4 units.

5

5